GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:772
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2016
Scarcity of Water for Irrigation
Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the scarcity of water for irrigation purposes in some parts of the country which is affecting farmers adversely;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to help constructing "Khet Talab' (farming ponds) as part of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to augment water for irrigation, if so, the details thereof along with the time by which these "Khet Talab" are likely to be constructed; and

(d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide assistance to the farmers in getting adequate quantum of water for irrigation purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. As per the information of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare the rainfall during the monsoon season 2015-16, i.e., June to September was deficient by about 14%. The rainfall during the period 1.10.2015 to 30.12.2015 and 1.1.16 to 29.2.2016 has also been deficient by about 23% and 57% respectively. This has led to water scarcity in some parts of the country.

(c) Yes, Madam. A national target of constructing 5 lakh Farm Ponds under MGNREGA in the current financial year has been kept.

(d) Following steps have, inter-alia, been taken by different Ministries/ Departments of the Government to provide assistance to the farmers in getting adequate quantum of water for irrigation purpose:

a) During 2015-16, Central Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) to improve access to Irrigation and mitigate risk of farmers by providing assured irrigation by focusing on 'Har Khet ko Pani'.

b) Department of Land Resources implements the watershed development component of PMKSY for development of rainfed / degraded areas under which major activities taken up inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons.

c) Central Government has launched the National Water Mission with the objective of conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management. One of the goals of National Water Mission is focused attention to vulnerable areas including over-exploited areas.

d) The State Governments have been requested to prepare and implement an action plan to develop their Water Strategies using local intelligence, innovations and technologies to conserve rain water and to optimize Water Management.

e) State Governments undertake several measures to augment the water resources which inter-alia include conservation and augmentation of ground water. Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments in this regard through various schemes and programmes.

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